GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:466
ANSWERED ON:21.10.2008
MECHANISM TO REGULATE PRIVATE BROADCASTERS
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Broadcasters have set up a body on self-regulation;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the role of the Ministry in such a body;

(c) whether the Government has any mechanism to regulate the activities of private broadcasters;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (ADDITIONAL CHARGE) (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) Yes, Sir. News Broadcasters Association (NBA) has set up a body namely "News Broadcasting Standards Disputes Redressal Authority"(NBSDRA) for their self-regulation.

(b) It is a Nine Member Authority chaired by Mr. Justice J.S. Verma, former Chief Justice of India. As NBA is a private organization and they have set up NBSDRA for their self-regulation, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting have no role in it.

(c) & (d) Presently, the activities of private broadcasters(TV Channels) are being regulated by the terms and conditions under which permission for uplinking and downlinking is granted. They are also required to adhere to the programme and advertisement codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under Section 20 of the said Act. The Committee either suo-motu or on receipt of complaints, examines cases of violation of the Codes. If the Committee notes any violation, action is taken against the TV channel as per rules. A Committee was also constituted for reviewing the Programme & Advertising Codes (Content Code) prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed there under to provide greater specificity to the provisions of existing Codes. The report of the Committee is available on the website of the Ministry www.mib.nic.in under the heading Codes & Guidelines and sub heading 'Self-Regulation Guidelines for the Broadcasting Sector (2008)'.

(e) Does not arise.